



North Dakota

FARM REPORTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

Cattle Inventory

Agricultural Prices

Sheep Inventory

Wool Production

Milk Production

CATTLE INVENTORY

North Dakota
All cattle and calves as of January 1, 2004 totaled 1.75 million head, down 7 percent from the 1.88 million on January 1, 2003. This is the third year total inventory has declined since 1.98 million head on January 1, 2001 and is the lowest total inventory since January 1, 1993, which was also 1.75 million.

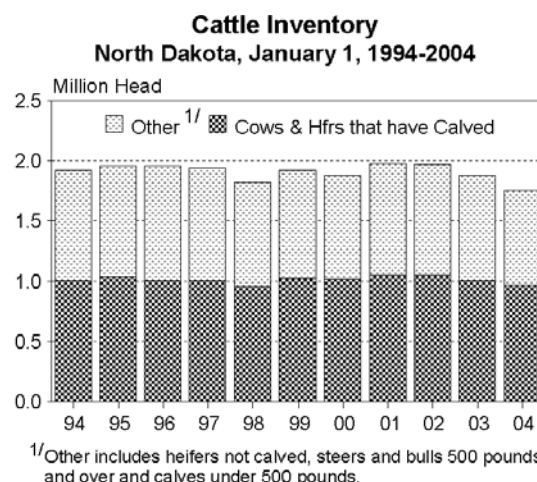
Beef cows, at 937,000 head, were also down 4 percent and lowest since January 1, 1998, at 906,000 head. Milk cows, at 33,000 head were down from 37,000 head a year ago and 42,000 head two years ago.

Heifers for beef cow replacement, at 156,000, were up slightly from the last two years' 155,000 head. Heifers for milk cow replacement, at 14,000 head, were up slightly from 13,000 a year ago but down from 15,000 head two years ago. Other heifers not for breeding, at 215,000, were down 7 percent from a year ago and were at their lowest level since January 1, 1999 at 210,000 head.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, at 260,000 head, were down 13 percent from last year and were the lowest since January 1, 1993, at 230,000 head. The 2003 calf crop was estimated at 960,000 head, down from 1.00 million head in 2002 and lowest since the 1998 calf crop of 960,000 head.

United States
All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2004, totaled 94.9 million head, 1 percent below the 96.1 million on January 1, 2003.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.9 million, were down 1 percent from the 42.1 million on January 1, 2003. Beef cows, at 32.86 million, were down slightly



from January 1, 2003. Milk cows, at 8.99 million, were down 2 percent from January 1, 2003.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2004 and the change from January 1, 2003, are as follows: beef replacement heifers, 5.52 million, down 2 percent; milk replacement heifers, 4.02 million, down 2 percent; other heifers, 9.80 million, down 1 percent; and steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.3 million, down 2 percent.

The 2003 calf crop was estimated at 37.9 million head, down 1 percent from 2002. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.7 million, down 1 percent from 2002.

CATTLE AND CALVES INVENTORY, January 1

Class	NORTH DAKOTA		UNITED STATES ^{1/}	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	-- 1,000 Head --		-- 1,000 Head --	
Cattle & Calves	1,880	1,750	96,100	94,882
Cows & Heifers That Calved	1,010	970	42,125	41,851
Beef Cows	973	937	32,983	32,860
Milk Cows	37	33	9,142	8,991
Heifers 500 Pounds & Over	398	385	19,628	19,341
For Beef Cow Replacement	155	156	5,624	5,517
Expected to Calve ^{2/}	--	--	3,548	3,492
For Milk Cow Replacement	13	14	4,114	4,020
Expected to Calve ^{2/}	--	--	2,877	2,761
Other Heifers	230	215	9,891	9,804
Steers 500 Pounds & Over	300	260	16,554	16,280
Bulls 500 Pounds & Over	56	50	2,248	2,206
Calves Under 500 Pounds	116	85	15,545	15,204
Cattle on Feed	70	65	13,220	13,811
Calf Crop^{3/}	1,000	960	38,224	37,903

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 2/ Replacement heifers expected to calve during the year. Published at U.S. level only. 3/ Preceding year.

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AGRICULTURAL PRICES

North Dakota

The Index of Prices Received for All Farm Products in January is 117 percent of the 1990-1992 base. This is up 2 percent from last year and 23 percent above two years ago. The All Crops Index, at 120 percent of the base, is down 1 percent from January 2003, while the All Livestock Index, at 110 percent, is up 13 percent from last year.

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES, January 2004

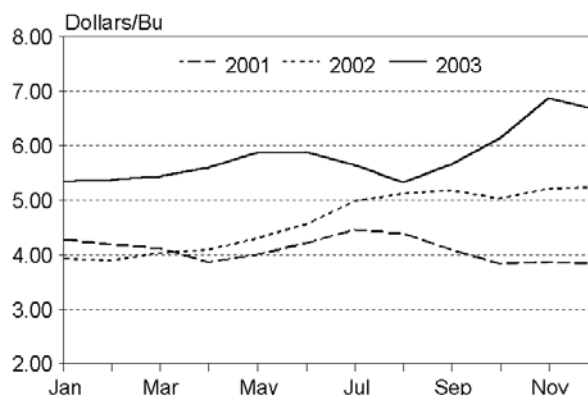
Indexes and Ratios	NORTH DAKOTA			UNITED STATES		
	Jan 2003	Dec 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2003	Dec 2003	Jan 2004
	(1990-92 = 100)					
PRICES RECEIVED						
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	115	121	117	100	113	111
CROPS	121	123	120	103	115	115
Food Grains	132	130	122	117	122	122
Feed Grains & Hay	120	121	114	105	104	107
Oil Bearing Crops ¹	112	124	135	99	126	139
Potatoes & Dry Beans ²	103	105	97	108	95	97
LIVESTOCK	97	114	110	96	112	107
Meat Animals	97	119	113	93	111	100
Dairy Products	95	99	95	90	105	100
Other Livestock Products ³	92	93	92	108	121	133
PRICES PAID				126	130	130
RATIO ⁴				79	87	85

¹ Includes non-oil sunflower. ² North Dakota includes sugarbeets. ³ United States excludes wool. ⁴ Ratio of Index of Prices Received to Index of Prices Paid.

United States

The January All Farm Products Index is 111 percent of its 1990-92 base, down 2 percent from the December index but up 11 percent from the January 2003 index. The All Crops Index is 115, unchanged from December but 12 percent above January 2003. The Livestock and Products Index, at 107, is down 5 percent from last month but up 11 percent from January 2003.

Soybean Prices Received North Dakota, 2001-2003



PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, January 2004

Commodity	Unit	NORTH DAKOTA			UNITED STATES			Effective U.S. Parity Price Jan 2004
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary	
		Jan 2003	Dec 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2003	Dec 2003	Jan 2004	
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Wheat, All	Bu	4.01	3.77	3.72	3.89	3.69	3.73	9.75
Durum	Bu	4.15	3.98	4.00	4.23	3.96	4.03	
Other Spring	Bu	3.95	3.74	3.65	4.03	3.75	3.73	
Winter	Bu	2.91	3.12	3.20	3.66	3.63	3.70	
Corn	Bu	2.08	2.11	2.25	2.33	2.32	2.46	6.55
Rye	Bu		2.00					6.10
Oats	Bu	1.79		1.50	2.04	1.58	1.50	3.82
Barley, All	Bu	2.79	2.66	2.60	2.85	2.94	2.70	6.50
Feed	Bu	1.99	2.22	2.15	2.17	2.30	2.20	
Malting	Bu	3.08	2.91	2.90	3.07	3.22	3.00	
Sunflower, All	Cwt	12.30	11.80	12.30	12.10	11.60	12.00	
Oil	Cwt	11.70	11.10	11.10				
Non-oil	Cwt	13.70	15.40	15.20				
Baled Hay, All ¹	Ton	65.00	55.00	53.00	91.40	81.30	79.30	
Alfalfa ¹	Ton	71.00	60.00	58.00	98.50	87.90	83.60	
Other ¹	Ton	49.00	43.00	39.00	78.10	66.90	71.40	
Canola ²	Cwt		11.10					
Flaxseed	Bu	5.71	6.22	6.15	5.71	6.22	6.15	12.60
Soybeans	Bu	5.35	6.65	7.65	5.51	7.17	7.82	15.40
Dry Edible Beans, All	Cwt	13.80	14.90	15.30	16.40	17.20	17.40	50.50
Navy	Cwt	13.20	16.10					
Pinto	Cwt	13.90	14.80					
Potatoes, All	Cwt	6.40	5.25	5.20	6.67	5.60	5.70	14.80
Fresh ³	Cwt	11.20	4.80		8.40	6.03		
Processing	Cwt	4.70	5.20		5.46	5.25		
Beef Cattle	Cwt	76.30	87.10	86.20	73.20	90.50	77.40	165.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	81.30	99.50	96.00	77.80	95.70	81.20	
Cows	Cwt	36.00	50.00	47.00	36.90	49.40	45.80	
Calves	Cwt	89.90	112.00	112.00	96.80	112.00	105.00	221.00
Sheep	Cwt	30.00	42.00		41.30	44.40		81.20
Lambs	Cwt	90.00	101.00		92.00	98.40		195.00
Hogs	Cwt	35.10	37.60		33.00	34.20	35.70	102.00

¹ Alfalfa, other and all hay are preliminary prices only. ² Monthly price added July 2003. ³ Fresh market prices only, includes table stock.

SHEEP INVENTORY

North Dakota

All sheep and lamb inventory in North Dakota on January 1, 2004, totaled 97,000 head, down 16 percent from 2003. This two-year downward trend brings North Dakota to the smallest state flock since records were kept starting in 1920. Breeding sheep inventory declined 13,000 head to 71,000. That is 15 percent lower than the 84,000 head last year and the lowest since records were kept starting in 1905. Ewes one year old and older at 57,000 head, were down from 71,000 in 2003. Rams were slightly lower than a year ago at 2,000. Replacement lambs totaled 12,000 head, up from 10,500 last year.

Market sheep and lambs totaled 26,000 head, down from 31,000 on January 1, 2003. Seventy-two percent of the market lambs were 85 pounds or more, down from 77 percent last year. Twelve percent of the total were lambs less than 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65-84 pounds, 44 percent 85-105 pounds and 28 percent were more than 105 pounds. Only 1,000 head of the total were market sheep while 25,000 were market lambs.

The 2003 lamb crop of 80,000 head was down 20 percent from 2002 making it the lowest since records were kept starting in 1924. The 2003 lambing rate was 113 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, compared with 118 in 2002.

United States

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2004, totaled 6.09 million head, down 3 percent from 2003 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended downward since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.48 million head on January 1, 2004, down 4 percent from 4.66 million head on January 1, 2003. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004, totaled 1.61 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 23 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 30 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head was down 5 percent from 2002 and established a new record low. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002.

SHEEP INVENTORY, January 1

Class	North Dakota		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	--- 1,000 Head ---		--- 1,000 Head ---	
All Sheep and Lambs	115.0	97.0	6,300.0	6,090.0
Total Market	31.0	26.0	1,642.2	1,610.0
Lambs	30.0	25.0	1,575.2	1,542.7
Under 65 Pounds	2.5	3.0	441.0	433.0
65 to 84 Pounds	4.5	4.0	266.3	255.5
85 to 105 Pounds	11.5	11.0	393.0	367.4
Over 105 Pounds	11.5	7.0	474.9	486.8
Sheep	1.0	1.0	66.8	67.3
Total Breeding	84.0	71.0	4,658.0	4,480.0
Ewes, One Year & Older	71.0	57.0	3,770.0	3,601.0
Rams, One Year & Older	2.5	2.0	193.0	188.5
Replacement Lambs	10.5	12.0	695.0	690.5
Lamb Crop ^{1/}	100.0	80.0	4,357.0	4,120.0
From Breeding Ewes 1 yr + Jan 1	85.0	71.0	3,980.0	3,770.0
Rate Per 100 Ewes 1 yr +	118	113	109	109

1/ Preceding year.

WOOL PRODUCTION

North Dakota

Shorn wool production during 2003 was 650,000 pounds, down 18 percent from 2002 and lowest on record. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 70,000 head, down from 93,000 head during 2002. Average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was \$0.60 per pound. Price was steady from last year. The total value of wool was \$390,000, down 18 percent from \$474,000 in 2002 which was due mainly to the lower volume of wool shorn.

United States

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2003 was 38.1 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2002. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.06 million head, down 8 percent from 2002. The average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was \$0.72 per pound for a total value of \$27.4 million dollars, up 25 percent from \$21.9 million dollars in 2002.

WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE

State ^{1/}	Sheep Shorn		Weight per Fleece		Production		Price per Pound		Value ^{2/}	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	--- 1,000 Head ---		--- Pounds ---		--- 1,000 Pounds ---		--- Cents ---		--- 1,000 Dollars ---	
North Dakota	93.0	70.0	8.5	9.3	790	650	60	60	474	390
California	510.0	500.0	7.1	7.0	3,600	3,500	45	79	1,620	2,765
Colorado	460.0	360.0	6.7	7.2	3,070	2,580	57	74	1,750	1,909
Minnesota	150.0	140.0	6.8	6.8	1,020	950	20	30	204	285
Montana	289.0	272.0	9.6	9.5	2,788	2,597	76	103	2,119	2,675
South Dakota	375.0	330.0	8.3	8.0	3,105	2,625	45	76	1,397	1,995
Texas	850.0	800.0	7.0	7.0	5,950	5,600	68	90	4,046	5,040
Wyoming	420.0	390.0	8.9	9.4	3,750	3,650	73	110	2,738	4,015
United States	5,476.0	5,057.0	7.5	7.5	41,322	38,114	53	72	21,876	27,408

1/ Published are a few selected states from the National release. 2/ Production multiplied by marketing year average price.

MILK PRODUCTION

North Dakota

Milk production for the October-December quarter was estimated at 131 million pounds, down 6 percent from the same period last year. Average milk cows during the quarter, at 34,000 head, decreased 4,000 head from the same period last year. Milk produced per cow during the October-December quarter was 3,865 pounds, up from 3,680 pounds a year earlier, but down from 3,910 pounds during the July-September 2003 quarter.

MILK PRODUCTION OCTOBER - DECEMBER

State ^{1/}	Milk Cows ^{2/}		Milk Production ^{3/}		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	Change from 2002
	-- 1,000 Head --		-- Million Pounds --		Percent
North Dakota	38	34	140	131	-6.4
California	1,670	1,699	8,674	8,683	0.1
Minnesota	480	465	2,042	2,000	-2.1
New York	678	660	2,973	2,875	-3.3
Wisconsin	1,267	1,249	5,396	5,431	0.6
United States	9,148	9,007	41,555	41,322	-0.6

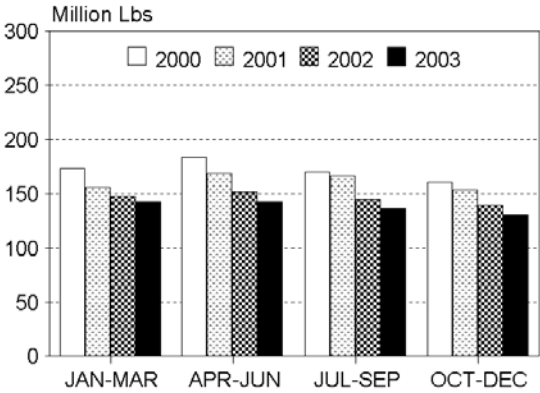
1/ Published are a few selected states from the National release. 2/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

United States

Milk production in the U.S. during the October-December quarter totaled 41.3 billion pounds, down 0.6 percent from the October-December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.01 million head, 141,000 head less than the same period last year.



Quarterly Milk Production
North Dakota, 2000-2003



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